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Agenda item 58 (a)

Training and research: United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdulmalik **Alshabibi** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 58 (a) (see A/60/494, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 32nd, 35th and 36th meetings, on 23 November and 9 and 13 December 2005. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.32, 35 and 36).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.39 and A/C.2/60/L.56

2. At the 32nd meeting, on 23 November 2005, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/60/L.39), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000, 56/208 of 21 December 2001, 57/268 of 20 December 2002, 58/223 of 23 December 2003 and 59/252 of 22 December 2004,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/60/494 and Add. 1 and 2.

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"*Acknowledging* the work of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the functioning of the Institute,

"*Noting* the continued progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the strengthened cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

"*Expressing its appreciation* to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

"*Noting* the slight improvement in the financial situation of the Institute, and expressing its appreciation to those who have contributed to this improvement,

"*Noting also*, however, that the bulk of the resources contributed to the Institute are directed to the Special Purpose Grants Fund rather than to the General Fund, stressing the need to address that unbalanced situation, and also noting that the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

"*Noting further* that the Institute is self-funded, that it does not receive any kind of subsidy from the United Nations regular budget and that it delivers, free of charge, training courses to diplomats and delegates accredited to United Nations Headquarters in New York and to the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi,

"*Noting* the various ongoing training programmes of the Institute, including those in the field of sustainable development,

"*Reiterating* that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system, including those related to access to basic services,

"1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, based on an effective coherent strategy and an effective division of work among the relevant institutions and bodies;

"2. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States and local authorities, and the relevance of the training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

"3. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and in this context underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of those partnerships, in particular at the country level;

"4. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue to ensure fair and equitable geographical distribution and transparency in the preparation of the programmes and in the employment of experts, and in this regard stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus primarily on development issues and the management of international affairs;

"5. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

"6. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include in these venues the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs;

"7. *Stresses* the need for an expeditious solution of the issues related to the Institute's rent, rental rates and maintenance costs, taking into account its financial situation, with a view to its expeditious resolution;

"8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and further increasing the contributions to the General Fund;

"9. *Urges* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to complete expeditiously the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors made in respect of the 2002-2003 biennium;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including details on the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute, and decides to consider the issue of the periodicity of the agenda item entitled 'Training and research' at its sixty-second session."

3. At the 35th meeting, on 9 December 2005, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/60/L.56), submitted by the Rapporteur, Abdulmalik Alshabibi (Yemen), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.39.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to postpone its consideration of the draft resolution to its next meeting.

5. At the 36th meeting, on 13 December 2005, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

6. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Juraj Koudelka (Czech Republic), orally corrected operative paragraph 11 by replacing it with the following text:

"Invites the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Board of Trustees of the Institute, in accordance with article XI of the statute of the Institute, to consider the desirability of reformulating article V, paragraph 2(j), of the statute so that the report of the Secretary-General may be submitted to the Economic and Social Council rather than to the General Assembly, and include the findings in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session."

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.56, as orally corrected (see para. 10).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Turkey made a statement (see A/C.2/60/SR.36).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.56, draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.39 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000, 56/208 of 21 December 2001, 57/268 of 20 December 2002, 58/223 of 23 December 2003 and 59/252 of 22 December 2004,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Acknowledging the work of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the functioning of the Institute,

Noting the continued progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the strengthened cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting the slight improvement in the financial situation of the Institute, and expressing its appreciation to those who have contributed to this improvement,

Noting also, however, that the bulk of the resources contributed to the Institute are directed to the Special Purpose Grants Fund rather than to the General Fund, stressing the need to address that unbalanced situation, and also noting that the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

Noting further that the Institute is funded from voluntary contributions and that it delivers, free of charge, training courses to diplomats and delegates accredited to United Nations Headquarters in New York and to the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi,

Noting the various ongoing training programmes of the Institute, including those in the field of sustainable development,

Reiterating that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, based on an effective coherent strategy and an effective division of work among the relevant institutions and bodies;

2. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States and local authorities, and the

[1] A/60/304.

relevance of the training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and in this context underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of those partnerships, in particular at the country level;

4. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue to ensure fair and equitable geographical distribution and transparency in the preparation of the programmes and in the employment of experts, and in this regard stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus primarily on development issues and the management of international affairs;

5. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

6. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include in these venues the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs;

7. *Stresses* the need for the expeditious resolution of the issues related to the Institute's rent, rental rates and maintenance costs, taking into account its financial situation, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and further increasing the contributions to the General Fund;

9. *Urges* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to complete expeditiously the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors made in respect of the 2002-2003 biennium; [2]

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including details on the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Board of Trustees of the Institute, in accordance with article XI of the statute of the Institute, to consider the desirability of reformulating article V, paragraph 2(j), of the statute so that the report of the Secretary-General may be submitted to the Economic and Social Council rather than to the General Assembly, and include the findings in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

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[2] See A/60/113, sect. IV.G.